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#4

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LEGENDS OF BALDUR'S GATE

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Story So Far...

In the legendary city of **Baldur's Gate**, a young moon elf (and wild mage) named **Delina** teams with the newly revived ranger **Minsc**; his hamster, **Boo**; and thieves **Krydle** and **Shandie**. To find Delina's missing brother, Krydle makes a deal with **The Fetcher**—but in the ensuing action, Delina is captured by a member of a **Dragon Cult**... who reveals himself to be her brother!

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ELVES CAN LIVE WELL OVER 700 YEARS, GIVING THEM A BROAD PERSPECTIVE ON EVENTS THAT MAY TROUBLE THE SHORTER-LIVED RACES MORE DEEPLY. THEY TEND TO REMAIN ALOOF AND UNFAZED BY PETTY HAPPENSTANCE.

WHEN PURSUING A GOAL, HOWEVER, WHETHER ADVENTURING ON A MISSION OR LEARNING A NEW SKILL OR ART, ELVES CAN BE QUITE FOCUSED AND RELENTLESS.

THEY ARE SLOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND ENEMIES, AND EVEN SLOWER TO FORGET THEM. THEY REPLY TO PETTY INSULTS WITH DISDAIN AND TO SERIOUS INSULTS WITH CAREFULLY PLANNED VENGEANCE.

THEN.

‹WONDERFUL!›*

‹THE FORCES OF ***MAGIC*** COME ***NATURALLY*** TO YOU, DELINA!›

*TRANSLATED FROM ELVISH.

LEGENDS OF BALDUR'S GATE

PART 4

〈LOOK, I CAN MAKE IT MOVE!〉

〈INDEED!〉

〈IT'S RARE TO SEE SUCH APTITUDE EMERGE WITHOUT ANY TRAINING.〉

〈YOUR BROTHER SPENT MONTHS PRACTICING BEFORE HE COULD CAST A SIMPLE PRESTIDIGITATION SPELL LIKE THIS.〉

〈I NEVER LIKED MAGIC BEFORE, BUT NOW I CAN FEEL IT!〉

〈I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT, WITH THE PROPER FOCUS AND GUIDANCE, YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A POWERFUL SORCERER, DELINA.〉

〈I'LL SEE ABOUT FINDING YOU A MENTOR AND—〉

〈NO!〉

〈DENIAK?〉

〈I DIDN'T SPEND ALL THIS TIME STUDYING FOR NOTHING!〉

〈I'M GONNA BE A POWERFUL WIZARD!〉

〈TELL HER TO STOP! SHE'S CHEATING!〉

<EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE *TWINS* AND SHARE A POWERFUL BOND, YOU'RE ALSO *INDIVIDUALS*.>

<HER GIFT DOESN'T NEGATE YOUR *PROGRESS* IN THE MAGICAL ARTS...>

<LIAR!>

<SHE DID THIS TO *EMBARRASS* ME!>

<DENIAK, PLEASE CALM DOWN.>

<YOUR ANGER WILL *TRANSFER* TO YOUR SISTER!>

<WHY ARE YOU SO *MEAN*?!>

<A *WILD MAGIC SURGE*!>

FOOM

AHHH!

<DENIAK!>

<GO GET *HELP*!>

NOW.

YOUR *WILD MAGIC* HAS ALWAYS KEPT THINGS ENTERTAINING, HASN'T IT, SISTER?

‹DENIAK, ARE YOU *OKAY*?›

‹I... I'VE BEEN SO *WORRIED*.›

THERE'S NO NEED TO CHIRP AWAY IN *ELVISH*, DELINA. THE SOUND OF IT *IRRITATES* ME NOW...

BUT, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I'M *FINE*.

‹WHAT...›

=AHEM=

WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU?

AMBITION HAPPENED... AMBITION AND *SACRIFICE*.

BUT, TO BE HONEST, IT WAS *ALWAYS* THERE. YOU WERE JUST TOO *NAÏVE* TO SEE IT.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I... I FELT SOMETHING *TERRIBLE.* A *DARKNESS...*

THAT WAS NOT *DARKNESS*, SISTER.

THROUGH OUR BOND YOU FELT THE *BLINDFOLD OF IGNORANCE* BEING LIFTED FROM MY EYES.

LISTEN TO ME!

POWER OLDER THAN WE CAN *IMAGINE* IS RETURNING TO OUR WORLD. THE *QUEEN OF DRAGONS* STIRS...

WE MUST *EMBRACE* HER SUPREMACY OR BE SWEPT AWAY LIKE *MOTES* OF *DUST.*

‹BROTHER, NO! YOU'RE *SCARING* ME!›

GOOD.

I WILL *NEED* THAT *FEAR* TO EXECUTE MY *PLAN...*

THE UNDERCELLAR.

YOU SAID THE SHIPMENT WOULD BE *HERE* BY NOW.

YES, BUT THIS DELAY IS QUITE OUT OF MY CONTROL. THE PATROLS HAVE BEEN—

WHAM

UUUHHH

YOU *OAF!*

WHAT IS THE *MEANING* OF THIS *INTRUSION?!*

THE *FIST OF TRUTH* KNOCKS AND YOU MUST *ANSWER* THE DOOR, *UGLY WALRUS FACE!*

SORRY FOR THE *INTERRUPTION*, M'LADY. NOTHIN' PERSONAL BUT WE'RE IN A BIT OF A *HURRY.*

I... I'LL SEE MYSELF OUT.

YOU SET US UP, FETCHER!

YOUR BRAIN-ADDLED *THUG* BEAT A *CONFESSION* OUT OF A *CULTIST LOWLIFE. BRAVO...*

KEEP YOUR *AGGRESSION* IN CHECK, HALFLING. I'M A *BUSINESS MAN.* I DEAL IN *INFORMATION*, NOT *THREATS.*

WE'RE UNDERSTANDABLY *TICKED*, BUT I THINK WE CAN COME TO AN *AGREEMENT* HERE.

STAY COOL, SHANDIE.

KRYDLE, ARE YOU *KIDDIN'*?! WE—

I TOLD YOU *EVERYTHING* I KNOW...

SHHHH

YOUR *EVIL VOICE* ANGERS MY *HAMSTER*.

GRRR

OKAY, SO *HERE'S* THE SCORE...

THAT LUMP OF DUMB ON THE FLOOR IS PART OF SOME SELF-TITLED "*DRAGON CULT*" LOOKING TO IMPRESS BIG BAD WYRMS OF OLD BY GATHERING *ANCIENT DRAGON ARTIFACTS*.

BUT, LIKE ANY FINE GATHERING OF *SELFISH SCUM*, THEY DON'T ALL AGREE ON HOW THAT SHOULD BE DONE.

DELINA'S DEAR BROTHER *DENIAK* JOINED THIS PACK OF *NUTTERS*, BUT RECENTLY BROKE OFF TO FORM HIS OWN *SPLINTER GROUP*.

ON THE WAY OUT THE DOOR, HE STOLE A BUNCH OF SECRET RITUAL STUFF AND THEY'RE *HELLBENT* ON GETTING IT BACK ALONG WITH DISHING OUT A HEALTHY DOSE OF *VENGEANCE*.

THAT CORRESPONDS WITH *RUMORS* THAT HAVE CROSSED MY DESK, YES.

BUT WHY SHOULD I *CARE*?

THE WATCH AND FLAMING FIST ARE DOING ***DOUBLE TIME*** TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.

YOUR MEN ARE GETTING ***SHAKEN DOWN***, DAY AND NIGHT, AND IT WON'T STOP 'TIL THESE CULTISTS ARE ***GONE.***

THE SOONER WE ***SOLVE*** THIS, THE SOONER YOU CAN GET BACK TO ***BUSINESS AS USUAL.***

WE KNOW YOU'RE PLAYIN' ***ALL SIDES.***

EITHER YOU KNOW WHERE DENIAK'S HIDIN' OUT, OR YOU KNOW ***SOMEONE*** WHO DOES!

HMMM

BOO, IF HE DOES NOT ***HELP*** US YOU MUST BITE HIS ***NOSE*** OFF. ***UNDERSTOOD?***

SQUEE

AN ELF MATCHING DENIAK'S DESCRIPTION SMUGGLED A HALF-DOZEN ***HOBGOBLINS*** INTO THE ***LOWER CITY.***

FROM WHAT MY ***SOURCES*** TELL ME, THEY'RE HOLED UP IN ***BRAMPTON***, NEAR THE DOCKS.

CLEAR THEM OUT AND WE'LL CALL IT ***EVEN***, KRYDLE.

DONE!

THE CULT BELIEVES THEY CAN *APPEASE* THE DRAGONS... CURRY THEIR *FAVOR.*

THEY'RE *CONVINCED* THEY MUST ENTER INTO THE RELATIONSHIP ALREADY ON *BENDED KNEE.*

FINE FOR *THEM*... BUT I INTEND TO *STAND.*

‹I CAN FEEL YOUR *AGGRESSION*, BROTHER.›

‹PLEASE, *WHATEVER* YOU'RE DOING...›

‹*STOP.*›

WHAT DID I *SAY* ABOUT SPEAKING *ELVISH*?

HOLD PERSON!

[BRING HER HERE.]*

[PLACE HER IN THE *CENTER*.]

[DON'T DISTURB ANY OF THE *MARKINGS*.]

*TRANSLATED FROM GOBLIN.

I WAS ALWAYS *JEALOUS* OF YOU, DELINA.

I TOILED FOR *YEARS* TRYING TO BREAK MAGIC'S *SECRET CODE* WHILE YOU *EFFORTLESSLY* STUMBLED INTO *INCREDIBLE POWER.*

I SPEAK THE *WORDS* AND MAKE ROTE *GESTURES*, BUT MAGIC DOES NOT *FLOW* THROUGH MY VEINS LIKE IT DOES THROUGH *YOURS.*

YOUR *WILD MAGIC* TAPS INTO THE DEEPEST WELLS OF *CHAOS* AND CAN *BEND REALITY.*

THROUGH OUR PRECIOUS *BOND* I WILL CHANNEL YOUR WILD MAGIC "*GIFT*" THROUGH THE CULT'S RITUALS AND TAKE THEM TO *NEW HEIGHTS*, IMBUING MY BODY WITH *DRACONIC MIGHT.*

I FEEL THE FEAR AND ANGER *QUIVERING* INSIDE YOU.

IT SHAKES YOU TO YOUR *CORE*, IGNITING THE WILD SURGE WITHIN...

THERE'S *NOTHING* YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT.

SQUEE-SQUEE!

EH?

THOOM

MY *HAMSTER* SPEAKS *TRUTH*, UGLY ONES!

SURRENDER OR FACE *HUGE JUSTICE!*

[ELIMINATE THEM—*NOW!]*

G'UH!

FWOOSH

SHUNK

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE *RIGHT PLACE*, SHANDIE.

THOK

SEEMS SO!

GRRRR!

[*DIE*, YOU *BASTARD*!]

YOUR EVIL *WORDS* ARE *GIBBERISH*!

SURPRISE, *SURPRISE*!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU *HOB-GOBBIES* KNEW HOW TO *USE* SWORDS!

KLANK

ILLEGIBLE
ILLEGIBLE!

SQUEE!

[HUH?]

AGGH!

THE *EYES* OF EVIL ARE BOO'S *FAVORITE SNACK!*

CHUNK

OW!

RRRR

OKAY, *THAT* REALLY HURT...

ᒪᓪᓚᒃ ᐅᓇᓱᓐᓂ ᓴᓇᓐᓂᒃ ᓱᓇᓐᓂ ᓴᓐᓂᕐᓂᒃ ᐅᓇᓱᓐᓂ ᐊᓐ ᓴᓐᓂᕐᓂᒃ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓂᑦ ᐅᓇᓱᓐᓂ ᓴᓐᓂᕐᓂᒃ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓂᑦ ᓴᓐᓂᕐᓂᒃ ᐃᓕᓴᕐᓂᑦ

CHOP

YIKES!

DEATH BY *LITERATURE!*

CRASH

OOF!

NNNG!

CRACK

CHEW ON THIS!

SLASH

MINSC, GET DELINA *OUT* OF THERE!

AAAK!

SHUNK

FEAR NOT, NEERA!

WE'LL *SAVE* YOU!

KRAKOOM

UHHHH

YESSSS...

THE OTHERS DIDN'T *REALIZE*... THEY WERE TOO *AFRAID*...

‹BROTHER... NO...›

I-I CAN FEEL *DRAGON STRENGTH* GROWING...

INSIDE...

‹WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*?›

IT... NO... IT'S *NOT* RIGHT... IT—

AAAAAAGH!

THE WATCH CITADEL.

NOBLEMAN *CORAN* OF THE *PARLIAMENT OF PEERS* TO SEE YOU, *DUKE RAVENGUARD.*

VERY WELL.

YOU LOOK WELL, YOUR DUKE-NESS.

HOW ARE YOU *SHOULDERING* YOUR NEW POSITION?

CUT THE FORMAL *FACADE*, CORAN.

WHAT DO YOU *WANT*?

AS *SUBTLE* AS EVER, *EH*, ULDER?

WELL, OKAY, HOW DO I PUT THIS...

MY *SOCIAL DALLIANCES* FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH ME.

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN *LOVE*, YOU STUPID ELF.

NOT A CHANCE... AND THAT'S *HALF* THE PROBLEM...

YEARS AGO I FATHERED AN *UNLOVED, TROUBLE-MAKING HALF-BREED BASTARD* NAMED *KRYDLE.*

NOW HE'S A *SNEAK THIEF* DETERMINED TO BRING DOWN THE RULING CLASS HERE IN BALDUR'S GATE AND HE KNOWS *EVERY WEAK SPOT* IN OUR *POLITICAL ARMOR.*

WELL, THAT'S QUITE THE *SCANDAL.*

BUT WHY IN TORM'S NAME ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

BECAUSE I NEED YOUR *HELP.*

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO *BLACKMAIL* ME... I WON'T BE CONTROLLED BY *ANYONE.*

IF YOU WANT TO STOP THIS GETTING OUT, WE'LL HAVE TO ACT *FAST.*

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

I'LL HAVE ONE OF OUR WIZARDS USE THEIR *INVESTIGATIVE MAGIC* TO SEE IF WE CAN DETERMINE *WHO* WROTE THIS LETTER AND *WHERE* THEY ARE NOW.

MUCH OBLIGED.

ONCE WE KNOW THAT, I—

BOOM

BY THE *GODS!*

UH...

"...I THINK OUR *PRIORITIES* JUST *CHANGED*..."

RAAAARRH!

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE!

LEGENDS OF BALDUR'S GATE

A DRAGON RAMPAGES THROUGH THE STREETS OF BALDUR'S GATE AND THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN SALVATION AND DESTRUCTION IS TWO THIEVES, A WILD MAGE, A RANGER AND A MINIATURE GIANT SPACE HAMSTER! SWORDS FOR EVERYONE! IT WOULDN'T BE *DUNGEONS & DRAGONS* WITHOUT A ***DRAGON***, NOW WOULD IT?

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